

SKURT

# ONE

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A ZINE ABOUT
THE 1990S

APRIL 2020

### SKURT COBAIN





April 2020



Hello and welcome to the first issue of "Skurt Cobain".

This zine is about the 1990s. I grew up in the 90s so i get super nostalgic about it, so i thought it would be fun to do an entire zine about it.

thank you so much to everyone who contributed to this zine! I really had fun putting it together & i can't wait to do more issues...if you would like to submit something for a future issue please get in touch--all the info is on the last page.

i really hope you enjoy this zine.

xoxo Jolie Ruin





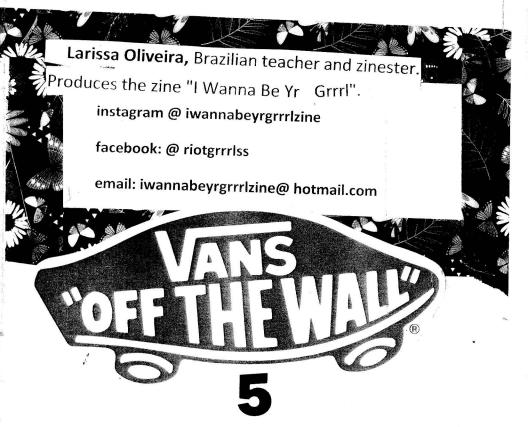
Hi, my name is Larissa Oliveira and I think that Kurt Cobain is the artist that most influences me. I found out about him and Nirvana when I was 15. He was the first ome to wake me up . So I decided to make a list of 5 times that Kurt Cobain led me to know some things that are still part of what I believe/love☆

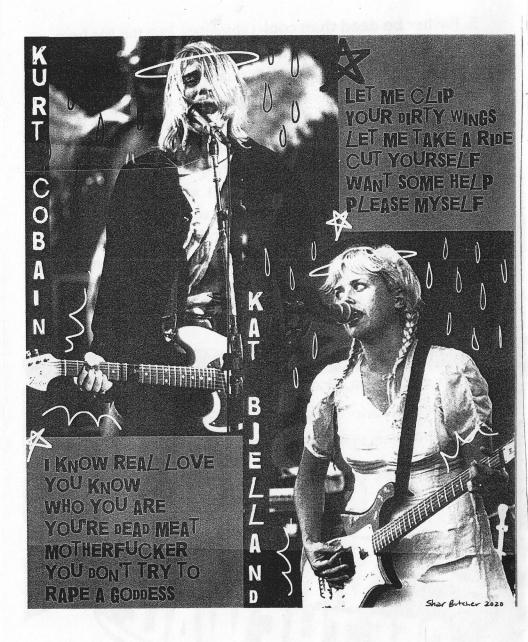
- 1. Riot Grrrl movement I read the biography "Heavier than heaven" when I was 16 and it mentions the relationship between Kurt and Tobi Vail (zinester and Bikini Kill's drummer). It also mentions the Riot Grrrl movement she helped to create and I was curious to know more about it. I ended up becoming a riot grrrl, a huge fan of bikini kill and eventually a zinester thanks to this incredible bio.
- 2. Grunge and non grunge (yet cool) bands: Melvins, Tad, Sonic Youth, Babes in Toyland, Hole, Raincoats, The Vaselines and Mudhoney. These are bands I've really loved for years and I only knew them because of Kurt. How I found out about them: through the bio mentioned in part 1; through the doc 1991: The Year Punk Broke (which was exhibited on MTV when it turned 20 just like Nevermind, I watched it because of Nirvana and ended up loving all the other bands); through his diaries and lists (raincoats was one of his fave female bands); All the other grunge bands (like Alice in Chains and L7) became my obsession because I first heard Nirvana.



- 3. Sexism sucks- the way Kurt stood up for Courtney Love (his wife and vocalist of Hole) was something I never saw men doing before. John Lennon might have defended Yoko Ono but he also cheated on her and was very aggressive to Cynthia Powell. I know Kurt+Courtney wasn't the perfect relationship but he truly admired her as an artist, expressing this many times during interviews, and while the media was really harsh on her, he stood up before thousands of people during the Reading festival in 1992 and encouraged them to chant: Courtney we love you. This moment set an example of how to be a nice guy in the rock scene which was already full of sexist jerks like Axl Rose, Phil Spector and Ike Turner. Kurt also spoke of rape and homophobia and his quotes on these topics became remarkable and cited many times by his fans. "Frances Farmer will have her revenge in Seattle", "Breed" and "Been a son" are powerful songs about patriarchy values.
- 4. It is okay to talk about depression- Kurt expressed his struggle with mental illness through his drawings, journals, songs and interviews. He spoke of the subject many times and was never ashamed of saying he was ill. It still is a tabu in our society because we still tend to perpetuate the "good vibes only" culture and suppress our negative feelings, especially if you are a man. Kurt demystified the idea that men should be tough, agressive and cold. He broke with the toxic masculinity culture and that is why it irritates me a lot when people say they don't believe he committed suicide. It is like denying the existence of such act and ignoring the possibility of it to depressed people. We have to talk about what can happen to a depressed person and respect if they decide to go away for good. The conspiracy theories surrounding his death are just sexist rethoric created by a greedy man that doesn't need to be named.

5. Rather be dead than cool-I absolutely love this line from the song "Stay Away". It can be interpreted as, you wish but to me, it talks about how we try to fit standards just to be "one of them". When Nirvana became mainstream, he really hated it because he was portrayed as just one more stereotype of a rock star. His life became an open book and this caused a series of stressful moments, just remember when Frances was taken away because of a Vanity Fair article. He didn't want to be the cool guy shaped by media, so that's why he was so open about things people didn't speak. Unfortunately, media used this to provoke chaos (remember the impact of the song Rape me?). Even though all this influenced in his suicide, many of his fans learned that they didn't have to give up on their beliefs just to fit into stupid standards.





By Sharon B. @sharon.butcher



By Yolanda Camacho

The street where I used to live is now full of trees. It has several parks nearby. There are also shops, supermarkets and residential buildings behind the one in which I grew up.

Many years ago it was very different. It was the last street of the town; beyond there were only orchards and an infinite waste ground full of weeds and debris. In that ground and its piles of crushed appliances I went with my bike and fell down right over broken glass. I didn't realise I cut my hand until a while after. It didn't hurt, but I wore the whole t-shirt stained with blood. I still have a scar, hard and gray.

On a wall facing the waste ground there was a graffiti written in very straight and round letters. 'Do not throw mud'. It always intrigued me, because it didn't say 'Do not throw junk' or 'No littering'. It said 'Do not throw mud', and I imagined people mixing water and soil in a bucket and throwing spoonfuls to the wall.

One afternoon, when we were about 11 years old, my friend and I rescued some kittens from a nearby field. Rough boys threw stones at them, so we squeezed several creatures full of sharp nails and crossed the fields at full speed to my house. We had to hide from the rough boys for weeks.

I shared a bedroom with my older sister until I was 13. I slept for years in a room with posters of The Cure and The Cult, and later with pics of Nirvana and afterwards with photos of Pulp, Blur, Suede, The Smashing Pumpkins or Babylon Zoo. We had glow in the dark stars on the wall. They formed shapes and words at strategic points of those posters and the NME clippings. When we turned off the lights they kept shining for a while before fading out.

During the summer we'd go up to the shared terrace to sunbathe. We carried sweets, drinks and the radiocassette. We played very loud music for hours. Sometimes a neighbor appeared to hang out the washing and caught us there, doing topless, scream singing and laughing as if we were drunk. But we weren't.

I haven't lived in that house and that town for years.

Whenever I go, although it's not something I do very often, I always think about checking if the 'Do not throw mud' graffiti is still there, but I never end up going. I guess I'm afraid of the possibility that it's gone.

**Yolanda Camacho**, born in 1983, is a writer and editorial designer. Obsessed with books, music, photography, 80s and 90s culture, scary movies and cats, lives in Valencia (Spain) with her husband and a fluffy black cat named Warlock.







### How Buffy Changed A Generation

Amy Dixon

@themrsdixons

In the 90's there was a wave of empowerment that washed down on preteen girls, myself included. It told us that we could do anything, be anything, and above all else, have power. My young self didn't know what this meant, in the slightest. All I knew was what girl bands shouted, sang, and danced out. I thought that was girl power, the power to be feminine; to be powerfully female. But I was no Spice Girl, I wasn't sporty or cute or fierce, I was just some weird kid that didn't know who I was or that someday I'd grow to become a person at all.

So, while other kids were covered in glitter and wrapped in crop tops, I wore jeans and t-shirts and boots and bandanas. I thought I wasn't very much of a girl because I wasn't very much like those girls. Fortunately, one night I stumbled upon a glorious little t.v. show that changed how I saw female power, and more importantly, how I saw myself. Of course, that show would be the much loved, long running series, Buffy the Vampire Slayer.

With a rag tag team of normal teens and an otherworldly gifted heroine, Buffy set up stories that while veiled in supernatural goodies, dealt with real life issues that were then knocked down by these determined, confused, unpopular kids. Oh, a teenage girl who fights evil and saves the world? What preteen could ask for more?

I finally felt like I didn't need to wear girl clothes, or be soft and delicate. Buffy was strong and powerful and with the introduction of the second slayer, Faith, the show offered its audience an alternative to the ultrafemme feminist. Faith was badass and while turned a bit to the dark side, was still a true badass.

Buffy taught me Girl Power to ALL kinds of girls,, no matter what.

Why Lisa Simpson has always. been My Role model 1) Stands up for what she believes is right, no matter if you don't make friends with salad. 2) Tries to see the best in every. person be it bully, elderly, or silent infant. 3) is other with having "unpopular" likes + hoddies (Jazz) 4) confident being above average, even if people call her a-Know-itall or a nerd 5) Depressed but trying to make the best of it.

11 The whole damn system is wrong! " "Why is it when a woman is confident and Powerful, they call her a witch? "My interests include music, Science, justice, animals, shapes, feelings. " I always sabotage myself when I'm on the verge of happiness. " " And I may or may not die young, I haven't decided yet. " 11 life is full of pain and drudgery, but the trick is to enjoy the few perfect experiences write given in the moment."

A say-based snackwill calm me

- Lisa Simpson

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@themrsdixons

## "And Then, My Friend, You Die" and other life lessons learned from Cornholio

Lesson # 1: Where Cornholio walks, he walks alone.

My adolescence smelled like cigarettes. I bummed my first cigarette from my friend Tim when I was 15 on an overcast day in 1990 or '91. I wanted to impress him because I secretly wanted to kiss him. Antiheroes and rebels and all the people teenage boys in the Midwest looked up to back then smoked cigarettes. Tim was raised by his mother and her partner back when young men still threw around words like "dyke" and "lesbo" as pejoratives for women who weren't interested in the groping of sweaty, awkward teenagers. I was 16 and didn't have a clearly defined idea of what I expected from Tim, just that sometimes I got an erection when he talked to me.

Sometime when I was 17, Tim's mom broke up with her partner, and she left our city in Missouri for a smaller town closer to the Arkansas-Missouri border, taking Tim with her. In his absence, my cigarette habit might have gone from one to two packs a day. I didn't kiss him goodbye. No one else made me feel quite the same way that he had, in my heart or in my pants, and so I buried him in my heart with good old-fashioned heteronormative aspirations.

Tim and I reconnected on Facebook recently. He now lives in the town that he moved to thirty years ago, where he posts contempt for "the Dems" alongside hot tub pics and his adoration of the Kansas City Chiefs. I suspect I may have both literally and figuratively dodged a bullet not kissing him.

Beavis and Butthead had one another for companionship, but Cornholio was solo as he wandered the halls of Highland High School, occupied the stage on open mic night at a coffee shop, and spread the word of Lake Titicaca across America. Take a lesson, friends. Self-reliance first. Fulfill the TP needs for your own bunghole, lest you become codependent upon others for your bunghole's happiness

#### And then, my friend, you die.

Clive Dodge sells good vibrations across America's Heartland, and then goes home to a dog and a human woman. They then play Yahtzee until dawn and drink Yoo-Hoo. Whooo What a living! Sometimes, he's on Facebook at

Sometimes, he's on Facebook at.

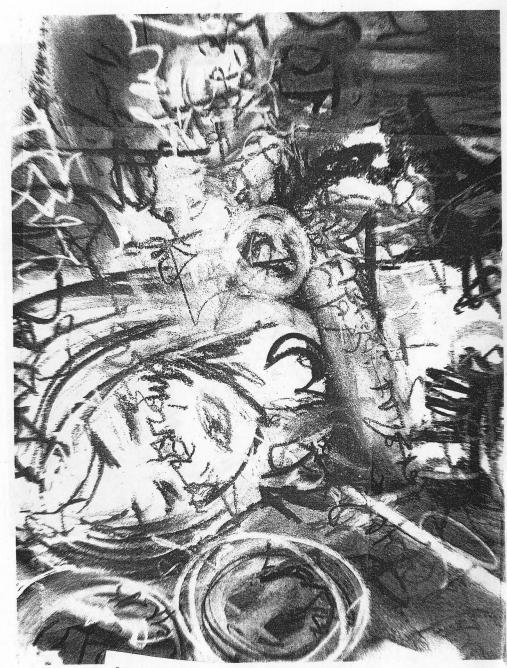
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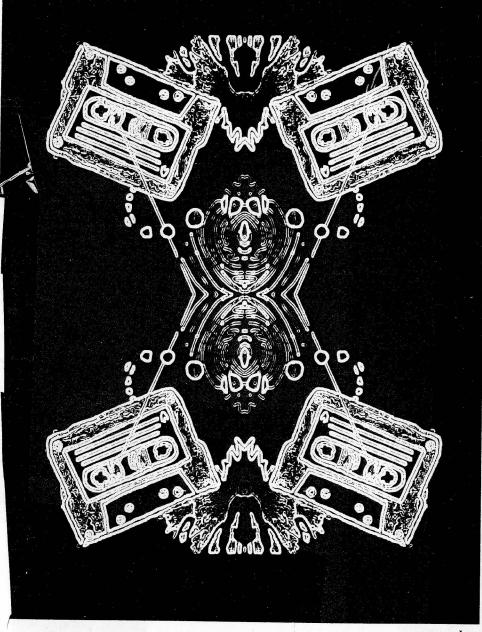
'm just a girl all pretty and petite so don't let me have







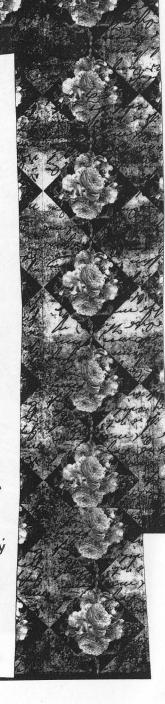
Medium: charcoal on paper, photography



by Natalie Windt @chicozinefest

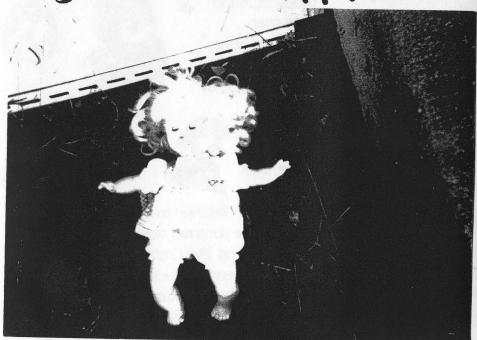
Riot Grrrl is the Name a poem by Rae Arleen

Babydolls and Peter Pan Eyeliner and Mary Jane It is a movement And riot grrrl is the name They call it Kinderwhore But it is much more It is a movement It is empowerment It is a statement It is taking back What was once ours And making something new It is more than clothing It is something long overdue And yet, we still need change Not everything is equal But perhaps it will be someday Babydolls and Peter Pan Eyeliner and Mary Jane It is a movement And riot grrrl is the name





"Kinderwhore" doll photos by Jolie Ruin 1994 \$ 1995





#### Delia\*s Dreaming



-Kendy aka Missuffcake (www.missmuffcake.com)

I still think of all of the chunky boots and shoes I wanted from the pages of the Delia\*s catalogs that would come to my sister and I in the mail.

We would both mark things we wanted but could not afford.

I still rocked chunky shoes but they were from Payless as I glued craft gems on my face and put blue glitter gloss on my lips.

No Doubt – I'm Just A Girl Marilyn Manson – Beautiful People Foo Fighters - Everlong Smashing Pumpkins – Bullet With Butterfly Wings

K's Choice – Not An Addict

Sneaker Pimps – 6 Underground White Town – Your Woman

The Wallflowers - One Headlight

Nada Surf – Popular

Marcy's Playground - Sex & Candy

Weezer - Buddy Holly

OMC - How Bizarre

Daft Punk – Around the World

Deftones - My Own Summer

These are the 90s songs that I listened to a lot in high school. I graduated in 97 and spent the summer watching MTV, wearing chunky shoes, watching The Craft and Showgirls on TV, talking on the party line, wearing black lipstick and Halloween white foundation, coveting Hard Candy and Urban Decay nail polishes at Macy's, dreaming about having enough money for anything at Hot Topic and learning about zines.













#### my first job

# Marcia Bryan maker of zines and paper crafts @moongirlpaperworks

In 1997 at 16 years old, the mall (and the lakefront across the street from it) were my world. In Columbia Maryland the mall wasn't really cool though. Just a place to go where friends met up to do things without supervision.

l applied for my first job there when I heard Hot Topic was coming. I had seen a Hot topic in Towson mall (in northern Baltimore county) and the chain was just reaching us in the East coast having started out in California. I curled my hair I wore 2 barrets, I think it was Orange lipstick and red mascara. I wore my white babydoll dress which was thin so I had my calico rabbit fur waist legnth coat on over it. I was really nervous about the interview and sure that my shakiness would kill this opportunity for me.

the Brown paper covered doors and it went really well. I would be 17 when we opened and we'd be building the store together, putting up shelves, assembeling racks and of course folding every shirt. It worked out for me and I was really proud to be a part of a group of goth and punk kids who listened to my music and could introduce me to even more. As a gift each employee got to pick out a shirt for free, I got Siouxsee and the Banshees. Putting up displays and learning about each brand together many of us bonded and we had a sense of pride in what we'd made (perhaps discouraging some people from stealing, though I wasn't one of them):

We sold "rock tees", comics, tattoo magazines, goth, punk, rave and rock a Billy style clothing. We had wrestling shirts and luchador masks, body jewelery, make up, hair dye, band patches and stickers, some specialty toys and home decor. We carried some compilation CD

while I know other stores had racks of them, we only carried a few. Opening night we stood at our stations.

The best position being at the door which was actually a large rot iron gate with what looked like stained glass sections with large bug suspended in them. We were all dressed up and coaxing people in as well as scaring some away with angry music blaring behind us.

Hot Topic was about the music and one of the coolest perks was concert tickets that were rewarded by some point system. I got to see switchblade symphony ,Gary Numan also a local radio station's Christmas festival with a line up of Hole, Garbage, Cake and Soul Coughing because I worked there. We also did ear piercing so for those of us who had never done it before we had to practice on each other. I probably got 5 or 6 holes in my ears from coworkers there. I met a lot of people, got a discount and stole a bunch of stuff even though the

manager totally searched us at the end of every shift. I worked there for 2 years in the summer, after school and on weekends.I thought it was awesome. The manager always let the crew pick an album each for the musical rotation every shift. I got into bands like The Deftones, Rasputina, Cradle of Filth and Fear Factory while working there. I can't really remember why I left...maybe because friends from the lake front and mall began to dissipate or because of my break up with my high school boyfriend but I moved on to community college, going to more raves and working at a gas station.

Since working there my shopping is limited to gift certificates online. The selection online is still pretty good but in store I wouldn't say Hot Topic is "about the music" anymore. Also I am not in the loop as far as today's music so the gear they do sell im not interested in. They

have a lot of movies and tv characters going on and it's possible that Hot Topic stores Are still #1 among pre teen to 16 year olds. Do they still go to the



### Riot Grrrl Zines in the 1990s.

By Jolie Ruin

@JolieRuin

I have been trading zines/ writing zines since the mid-90s. There was an era where most Riot Grrrl zines included all (or most) of these things:

Lisa Frank Stickers









 Hello Kitty, any Saniro character, & Barbie stickers (sometime in 1999 PowerPuff Girls stickers also became popular with zine makers)



 Pictures cut out of Delia\*s catalogs and used as









 clippings from vintage magazines and children's books. (Which was one of my favorite things to use in zines & something that i still do--mostly stuff from magazines from the 1940s)



- LISTS! Lists of things you like or hate, bands you like, favorite tv shows, or music that you put on your latest mix tape.
- Zines were usually typed on an old typewriter and the photos used were printed from FILM! wow

# \* sometimes things were added to something later with PEN.

Back then zines had LOTS of zine ads. Since we didn't have the internet we would create little ads & photocopy them, cut them out & send them out to other people who did zines. Everything was by word of mouth. And to help spread the word and help support other zinesters, we'd print each

others ads in our zines. We would also make lists about zines, distros, labels, music or zine compilations & other projects that people were working on to help get the word out.

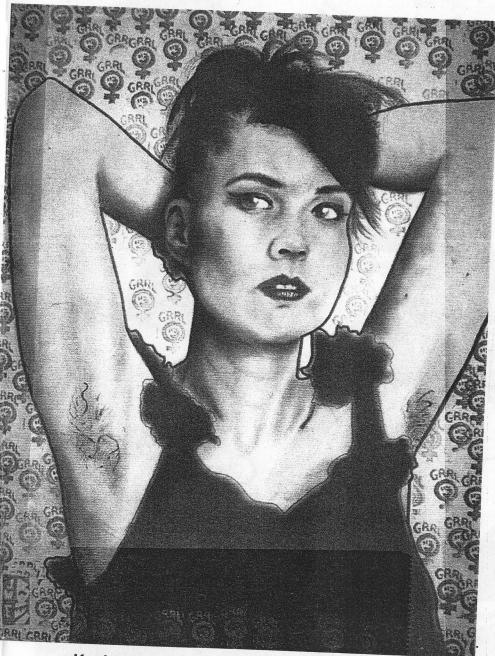
- LOTS of zine and music reviews!!! Like 2- 5 pages of just reviews! I know i did this in my 1st zine
- "Veronica Lodge" (1997).
- And finally...VERY looooong THANK YOU LISTS! Zinesters used to thank EVERYBODY in their zines! Their favorite bands & people who inspired them. Real life frineds & family & practically every single zinester that they knew! The lists used to take up more than half of a page!

#### I REALLY MISS THOSE DAYS!!!!

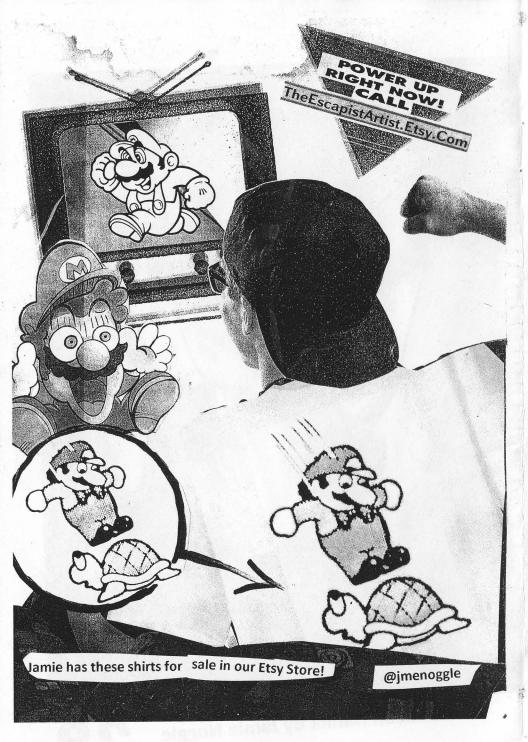


(quote by **Kurt Cobain)** 

@JolieRuin



Kathleen Hanna by Jamie Noggle





**DEADLINE = AUGUST 1ST 2020** 

PLETO



SKURT COBAIN IS A ZINE ABOUT THE 1990S.

(IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT KURT COBAIN!) I AM LOOKING FOR WRITINGS ABOUT LIFE IN THE 90S, MEMORIES, ESSAYS, COMICS, ART, POETRY, 90S POP CULTURE, MUSIC, TV, MOVIES, ANYTHING 90S-RELATED!

THERE'S NO WORD COUNT LIMIT, THE ZINE IS BLACK AND WHITE AND IT'S DIGEST SIZE (HALF SIZE) IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS JUST EMAIL ME: MRSNOGGLE@YAHOO.COM

